

JANE B. JOHNSTON.

JANUARY 27, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ANDERSON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3541.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3541) granting a pension to Jane B. Johnston, adopt the accompanying Senate report (No. 1236) as their own, and respectfully recommend the passage of the bill.

[Senate Report No. 1236, Fifty-fourth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3541) granting a pension to Jane B. Johnston, have examined the same and report:

The claimant, who is now over 80 years of age, is the widow of a soldier, and was one of the most patriotic, self-sacrificing women of the land during the war. She was a resident of Long Island, immediately opposite the Government hospital at Willets Point, Throgs Neck, New York Harbor, and upon a call of the surgeon in charge of the hospital, on account of large detachments of wounded soldiers which were sent from the front, she responded promptly, leaving her large family and home, giving her time and very largely of all the small means she had, purchasing the necessities for the sick and suffering. Her husband and three of her five (now deceased) sons were in the Army, none of whom ever drew a pension. She thought of no compensation at the time and received none, and did not think or care about whether she was officially designated on the records by the authorities for the duties that devolved upon her; but it is clearly established by the concurrent testimony of a large number of her neighbors and friends and Dr. C. M. Allen, who knew her and knew of her sacrifices and services at that time. Her strong sympathies in the long strain upon her system affected her hitherto good health, from which she broke down and was a bedridden sufferer for three or four years afterwards, from which she partially recovered, and, though feeble, is still living at an advanced age.

She has no means of support and is entirely dependent upon the charity of others for her food and actual necessities of life. Being unable to establish her claim in the Department under the army-nurse law, believing that the country is indebted to her, and from the further fact that she has only a short time to live, your committee recommend the passage of the bill.